

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A telecommunication system, comprising:

a telecommunication device having a display for viewing textual
5 information, the telecommunication device being connected to a digital subscriber
line (DSL) telephone network;

a database application which includes directory information, the database
application being remotely disposed relative to the telecommunication device; and

a mechanism coupled to the telecommunication device such that when the
10 mechanism is activated, a user is provided with access, through the DSL network,
to directory information on the data base application, the directory information
being provided to the display of the telecommunication device in response to user
entered text information.

5 2. The telecommunication system as recited in claim 1, wherein the
mechanism includes a button on the keypad of a telephone.

3. The telecommunication system as recited in claim 1, wherein the
button on the keypad of the telephone is dedicated only to initiating
20 communications with the database application.

4. The telecommunication system as recited in claim 1, wherein the
database application is located at a central office in the DSL network.

25 5. The telecommunication system as recited in claim 1, wherein the
directory information includes a plurality of entries and the system further
comprises means for selecting an entry from the list of entries to initiate a
telephone call to that entry.

30 6. The telecommunication system as recited in claim 1, wherein the
directory information includes information about business hours for an entry.

7. The telecommunication system as recited in claim 1, wherein the
directory information includes information arranged in accordance with a priority

rating of entries in the database application.

8. The telecommunication system as recited in claim 1, wherein the database application is configured to simultaneously provide information to the telecommunications device during a telephone call from the telecommunications device.

9. The telecommunication system as recited in claim 1, wherein the database application is configured to provide information to the telecommunications device while the telecommunications device is on-hook.

10. A telecommunication system, comprising:

a telecommunication device having a display for viewing textual information, the telecommunication device being connected to a digital subscriber line (DSL) network and remotely disposed relative to a voicemail server located within the DSL network;

the voicemail server including an answering device coupled to the DSL network for receiving and recording messages of the telecommunication device over the DSL network;

a mechanism coupled to the telecommunication device such that when the mechanism is activated, a user is provided with access, through the DSL network, to the messages stored on the voicemail server, the messages being textually rendered and provided to the display of the telecommunication device; and

means for selecting an entry from a message listing to retrieve the message.

11. The telecommunication system as recited in claim 10, wherein means for selecting includes a control device on a telephone.

12. The telecommunication system as recited in claim 10, wherein the telecommunication system permits message retrieval while the telephone is on-hook or off-hook.

13. The telecommunication system as recited in claim 10, wherein the

telecommunication system employs at least one voice channel and at least one data channel and the telecommunication system is configured to provide voicemail message retrieval on the telecommunications device through a data channel simultaneously while a call is in progress on a voice channel on the telecommunications device.

14. A method for providing textual directory services to an end-user through a digital subscriber line (DSL) telecommunication network, comprising the steps of:

initiating communication with a database application disposed in a telecommunications network from a remotely disposed telecommunication device, the telecommunication device having a display;

selecting directory categories by entering keyed-in information from the telecommunication device;

receiving at least one directory entry in accordance with the keyed-in information on the display of the telecommunication device.

15. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the step of initiating includes the step of pressing a dedicated button on a keypad of a telephone.

16. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the directory information includes a plurality of entries and the method further comprises selecting an entry from the list of entries to initiate a telephone call to that entry.

17. The method as recited in claim 16, further comprising the step of automatically placing a call to a selected entry.

18. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the step of receiving at least one directory entry is performed while the telephone is on-hook.

19. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the step of receiving at least one directory entry is performed while the telephone is off-hook.

20. The method as recited in claim 14, further comprising the step of

displaying only business entries, which have business hours at the time of receiving at least one entry.

21. The method as recited in claim 14, further comprising the steps of:
ordering business entries according to preference criteria; and
presenting the business entries to a user in accordance with the preference criteria.